

# Union Calendar No. 77

117TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R. 1154

[Report No. 117-104]

To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study to assess the suitability and feasibility of designating certain land as the Great Dismal Swamp National Heritage Area, and for other purposes.

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

FEBRUARY 18, 2021

Mr. MCEACHIN (for himself, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mrs. LURIA, and Mr. SCOTT of Virginia) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Natural Resources

JULY 26, 2021

Reported from the Committee on Natural Resources; committed to the Committee of the Whole House on the State of the Union and ordered to be printed

# A BILL

To authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study to assess the suitability and feasibility of designating certain land as the Great Dismal Swamp National Heritage Area, and for other purposes.

1       *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*  
2   *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3   **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4       This Act may be cited as the “Great Dismal Swamp  
5   National Heritage Area Act”.

6   **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

7       In this Act:

8           (1) HERITAGE AREA.—The term “Heritage  
9   Area” means the Great Dismal Swamp National  
10   Heritage Area.

11          (2) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means  
12   the Secretary of the Interior.

13          (3) STATES.—The term “States” means the  
14   States of Virginia and North Carolina.

15          (4) STUDY AREA.—The term “study area”  
16   means—

17           (A) the cities of Chesapeake, Norfolk,  
18   Portsmouth, and Suffolk in the State of Vir-  
19   ginia;

20           (B) Isle of Wight County in the State of  
21   Virginia;

22           (C) Camden, Currituck, Gates, and  
23   Pasquotank counties in the State of North  
24   Carolina; and

25           (D) any other areas in the States that—

## 6 SEC. 3. STUDY.

7       (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, in consultation  
8 with State and local organizations and governmental agen-  
9 cies, Tribal governments, non-profit organizations, and  
10 other appropriate entities, shall conduct a study to assess  
11 the suitability and feasibility of designating the study area  
12 as a National Heritage Area, to be known as the “Great  
13 Dismal Swamp National Heritage Area”.

14 (b) REQUIREMENTS.—The study shall include anal-  
15 ysis, documentation, and determinations on whether the  
16 study area—

17                   (1) has an assemblage of natural, historic, and  
18                   cultural resources that—

(A) represent distinctive aspects of the people and cultures of the United States;

(B) are worthy of recognition, conservation, interpretation, and continuing use; and

23 (C) would be best managed—

(ii) by linking diverse and sometimes noncontiguous resources and active communities;

4                   (2) reflects traditions, customs, beliefs, and  
5       folklife that are a valuable part of the story of the  
6       United States;

7 (3) provides outstanding opportunities—

(A) to conserve natural, historic, cultural, or scenic features; and

10 (B) for recreation and education;

11 (4) contains resources that—

12 (A) are important to any identified themes  
13 of the study area; and

(5) includes residents, business interests, non-profit organizations, and State, local, and Tribal governments, and other appropriate entities that—

(B) have developed a conceptual financial plan that outlines the roles of all participants in the Heritage Area, including the Federal Government; and

(C) have demonstrated support for the designation of the Heritage Area;

3                         (6) has a potential management entity to work  
4                         in partnership with the individuals and entities de-  
5                         scribed in paragraph (5) to develop the Heritage  
6                         Area while encouraging State and local economic ac-  
7                         tivity; and

(7) has a conceptual boundary map that is supported by the public.

## 10 SEC. 4. REPORT.

Not later than 3 years after the date on which funds are first made available to carry out this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate a report that describes—



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